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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 27 August 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my profound regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to escalate its brutal campaign of military aggression against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

For the eighth day in a row, Israeli occupying forces continue to carry out air and artillery raids and attacks against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, terrorizing the civilian population and endangering the lives of hundreds of people, including women, children and the elderly. These indiscriminate military assaults have resulted in the death and injury of many Palestinian civilians, exacerbating the tense situation on the ground and deepening the humanitarian crises being faced by the Palestinian people.

Since our last letter to you on 22 August 2007 (A/ES-10/397-S/2007/504), at least 11 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli occupying forces in separate incidents throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today, Israeli occupying forces opened indiscriminate fire on a Palestinian farmer, Fareed Abu Dhaher, who was tending to his agricultural land in the Al-Bureij Camp located in the centre of the Gaza Strip, killing him instantly. Yesterday, in the West Bank town of Jenin, an Israeli death squad opened fire onto a car, killing two of the passengers and injuring four others. Also, in a separate incident yesterday in the town of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza, Israeli occupying forces opened fire indiscriminately onto a group of young men, killing two teenagers, Mostafa Adnan Nasr, aged 17, and Hammam Ahmad Nasr, aged 18. These incidents followed the killing by Israeli occupying forces on Friday, 24 August 2007, of Mahmoud Al-Qirnawi, a 13-year-old boy from the Israeli town of Rahat who was visiting his mother's family in the occupied West Bank town of Tulkarem. Tariq Milhem was also killed in the same attack. The

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above-mentioned tragic events raise the total number of Palestinians killed over the past week to 27, including seven children.

The onus is now on the international community to fulfil its obligations towards international law, particularly the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, by condemning these illegal and inhumane Israeli practices, as well as taking firm and immediate action to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its military attacks and aggression in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This military aggression and criminal negligence constitute a true and credible threat against the genuine efforts now exercised towards peace, and they put into question the intentions and commitment of the Israeli Government towards peace.

Moreover, it is important to convey to you, once again, Israel's consistent exhibition of utter disregard for the lives of the thousands of Palestinians it detains. This systematic and discriminatory policy is a common practice by the Israeli prison authorities, employing medical negligence and ill-treatment as one of the many means of torture illegally used against these detainees. Instead of fulfilling their obligations towards international humanitarian law, Israeli prison authorities have exercised deplorable medical negligence towards dozens of Palestinian detainees, refraining from providing sick detainees with appropriate medical attention and treatment, resulting in the death or permanent injury, of scores of detainees. The last such case was the tragic death of Palestinian detainee Omar Eid al-Mesalemeh, on 25 August. His death brings to 191 the number of Palestinians who died inside Israeli jails and detention centres, including 46 from medical negligence. This inhumane practice amounts to a war crime, repeated in the light of the absence of any international deterrence, namely, the unfortunate prevalent international silence towards these tragic deaths, brought about by the racist and illegal practice of a belligerent occupation. It is incumbent upon the international community to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, scrupulously abides by international law in actions not words, which would necessarily mean a fundamental change in its deplorable practices against Palestinian detainees.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 293 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 August 2007 (A/ES-10/397-S/2007/504), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you on 22 August 2007, at least 11 more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,665. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 27 August 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (from Thursday, 23 August, to Monday, 27 August 2007)

Thursday, 23 August 2007

1. Ahmad Sa'eed Abu Jabal

Friday, 24 August 2007

2. Sameer Mohammad Asfour
3. Mahmoud al-Qirnawi (13)
4. Tariq Milhem

Saturday, 25 August 2007

5. Hammam Ahmad Naśr (18)
6. Mostafa Adnan Nasr (17)
7. Khedr Maher Ali Oakal
8. Mohammad Rajab Saqr
9. Ałaa' Abu al-Sa'eed
10. Mostafa Nader Ateeq

Monday, 27 August 2007

11. Fareed Abu Dhaher

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,665.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 7 September 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to launch deadly military assaults against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In the short period since my last letter to you, the occupying Power has killed at least 14 more Palestinians, including children, and wounded dozens more as it has continued carrying out violence and destructive raids throughout the Territory. Israel's use of such excessive and indiscriminate force is a cause of daily terror to the besieged Palestinian civilian population under its occupation who live under constant threat to their safety and well-being.

Yesterday, 6 September, the Israeli occupying forces once again entered the Gaza Strip with army tanks and bulldozers backed by helicopter gunships and launched an assault on the southern area of Khan Younis. During this incursion the occupying forces killed 10 Palestinian civilians and wounded several others. In addition to firing upon homes and agricultural fields, the occupying forces carried out house raids in the Khan Younis area, destroying their contents and traumatizing their inhabitants, including children, woman and elderly persons. This attack followed the brutal killing on 29 August of three innocent children, Yahya Ramadan Ghazal, age 12, Mahmoud Musa Ghazal, age 10, and Sara Suleiman Ghazzal, age 9, by Israeli artillery fire on a field east of the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza.

The Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which remains isolated and imprisoned owing to the continued closure of all border crossings into and out of the area, is also bracing itself for the deepening of the humanitarian crisis they are suffering in the light of the repeated threats by Israeli officials to cut off electricity and other vital supplies to Gaza. This cruel collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip is unjustifiable under any tenet of international law. The international community must undertake the necessary measures to address this crisis situation and to bring about the cessation of all such

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grave breaches of the law by the occupying Power and its forces against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

At the same time, it must be stressed that Israel, the occupying Power, also continues its illegal practices against the Palestinian civilian population throughout the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In addition to the continuation of its insidious, unlawful colonization campaign via the settlements and the Wall, the occupying Power has continued to carry out incursions and raids in the recent period, particularly in the northern West Bank in and around Nablus, Jenin and Qalqilya. This has involved violent house-to-house searches, the injury of civilians, including schoolchildren, by indiscriminate fire and the arbitrary arrest and detention of dozens more Palestinian civilians. All such actions by the occupying Power, along with its imposition of the severest restrictions on the movement of Palestinian persons and goods throughout the West Bank, including into and out of East Jerusalem, continue to cause turmoil in the daily lives of the civilian population, gravely affecting their socio-economic life and imposing further humanitarian hardships on them.

This situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, must be of serious concern to the international community for it constitutes a threat to the stability and security of the region and perpetuates an environment totally hostile to making peace. At this time, the Palestinian leadership is doing all in its capability to address the internal Palestinian situation and to alleviate civilian hardships. Yet, the international community must to its part to uphold its legal obligations, particularly under the Fourth Geneva Convention, in order to appropriately address this situation. The above-mentioned illegal actions by the occupying Power must be condemned and Israel must be called upon to halt all of its violations of international law. If Israel continues to choose not to comply with the law, then it must be compelled to do so and this requires action by the international community. The silence of the international community, including the Secretary-General and the United Nations, in the face of such constant Israeli military assaults and violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people sends the wrong message again and again, encouraging Israel, the occupying Power, to continue acting in grave breach of the law, comfortable with the knowledge that it will not be held accountable for its illegal actions against the Palestinian people under its occupation.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 294 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 2[9] September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 August 2007 (A/ES-10/398-S/2007/512), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that since our last letter to you, at least 14 more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,679. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 September 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(from Wednesday, 29 August to Thursday, 6 September 2007)

Wednesday, 29 August 2007

1. Sameh Al-Sawafeeri
2. Sarah Suleiman Ghazal (9)
3. Mahmoud Musa Ghazal (10)
4. Yahya Ramadan Ghazal (12)

Thursday, 6 September 2007

5. Tal'aat Al-Khateeb
6. Mohammad Adnan Mostafa Al-Hassi
7. Mostafa Sa'oud Al-Lababeedi
8. Nazeer Waleed Moshtaha
9. Hamza Mohammad Nasr
10. Mahmoud Sufian Salama
11. Mohammad Al-Abadleh
12. Mohammad Baraka
13. Ghassan Al-Saqqa
14. Mohammad Abu Labdah

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,679.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 19 September 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, observe the holy month of Ramadan, they continue to suffer loss and hardship as a result of the illegal policies and practices committed by Israel, the occupying Power. In this regard, among other illegal policies, Israel, the occupying Power, is denying access to Palestinian men under 45 years of age and Palestinian women under 35 years of age to Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem for prayer. Since our last letter to you, dated 7 September 2007, not a day has passed in which the occupying Power has ceased to commit serious violations and grave breaches of international law against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation, causing widespread devastation and suffering and deepening the humanitarian crisis, especially in the occupied Gaza Strip.

In a dangerous development today, 19 September 2007, Israel's Security Cabinet declared the occupied Gaza Strip as "enemy entity", declaring its intention to cut off power and fuel supplies to the already isolated and imprisoned Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. President Mahmoud Abbas condemned this latest Israeli declaration, stating, "this oppressive decision will only strengthen the choking embargo imposed on 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip, increase their suffering and deepen their tragedy". This cruel decision by Israel, the occupying Power, amounts to collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and is unjustifiable under any and all principles of international law. Israel, the occupying Power, must not be allowed, in any way, to escape from its obligations as an occupying Power and must be held accountable by the international community for all such violations of its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable to the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this connection, the Gaza Strip is part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The above-mentioned illegal actions by the occupying Power must be condemned and Israel must be called upon to halt all of

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its violations of international law and scrupulously abide by its legal obligations under international humanitarian law as an occupying Power.

Among other developments, since the early hours of yesterday, Tuesday, 18 September 2007, Israeli occupying forces raided the West Bank town of Nablus, causing death, injury and destruction. Israeli occupying forces entered the refugee camp of Ain Beir Al-Ma' in Nablus and opened fire, killing 17-year-old Mohammad Reda Khaled and a disabled man, Adeeb al-Damouni. Israeli occupying forces then proceeded to impose a curfew on the nearly 5,000 Palestinian refugees residing in the camp, conducting house-to-house searches and knocking down walls to get from one building to the next. These violent actions were pursued all while illegally using Palestinian civilians as human shields.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 295 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 September 2007 (A/ES-10/399-S/2007/536), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer